

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1.-6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for generating a high-hydrogen, low-carbon-monoxide gas, comprising:

a gas generating device for forming a product gas by at least one of catalytic water vapor reforming of a water vapor and fuel mixture and partial oxidation of an oxygen and fuel mixture;

a gas purification stage for removing carbon monoxide from the product gas by means of selective CO oxidation during a normal operation phase of said apparatus; and

feed and discharge pipes operable during a starting phase of said apparatus for reversing a flow direction through said gas generating device and said gas purification stage by way of valves; [[.]]

wherein, during said starting phase, said gas purification stage operates as a catalytic burner.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein during ~~[[a]]~~ the starting phase, the gas generating device is arranged downstream of the gas purification stage and, after the conclusion of the starting phase, the gas purification stage is arranged downstream of the gas generating device.

Claim 9. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising an oxygen feed pipe for adding oxygen into a fuel feed pipe at least during the starting phase.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the valves, are two-way valves, each connected with a fuel feeding pipe for feeding a fuel to ~~either~~ one of said gas generating device ~~[[or]]~~ and said gas purification stage, and each connected with a gas discharge pipe for discharging a gas from one of said gas generating device ~~[[or]]~~ and said gas purification stage.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising a control apparatus for triggering the two-way valves such that,

during a starting phase, said fuel feeding pipe to said gas purification stage and said gas discharging pipe from said gas generating device ~~purification pipe stage~~ are in a flow-type connection; and [[,]]

after conclusion of the starting phase, said fuel feeding pipe to said gas generating device and said gas discharging pipe from said gas purification stage are in a flow-type connection.

Claim 12. (New) Gas generating apparatus, comprising:

a first catalytic reaction stage for forming a product gas by at least one of catalytic water vapor reforming of a water vapor and fuel mixture, and partial oxidation of an oxygen and fuel combination;

a second catalytic reaction stage, operable for removing carbon monoxide from the product gas by selective CO oxidation, and operable for catalytic combustion of a mixture of fuel and oxygen; and

feed and discharge pipes with valves that are operable during a normal operation phase to feed a mixture of fuel and at least one of water vapor and oxygen in a first direction, sequentially through said first catalytic reaction stage and thereafter through said second catalytic reaction stage, and operable during a starting phase to feed a mixture of fuel and oxygen in a second

direction, sequentially through said second catalytic reaction stage and thereafter through said first catalytic reaction stage, said second direction being opposite to said first direction.